Examption From wearing Helmets in Delhi

1625. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for religious reasons some men and women are exempted from wearing helmets while riding a scooter or motorcycle in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it becomes risky for such individuals when they do not wear helmets; and

(d) if so, why other individuals are not required to wear the same?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) In accordance with provisions contained in section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1986, every person driving or riding (otherwise than in a side car, on a motor cycle of any class or description) shall, while in a public place, wear a protective head-gear confirming to the standards of Bureau of Indian Standards; provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to a person who is a Sikh, if he is, while driving or riding on the motor cycle, in a public place, wearing a turban; provided further that the State Government may, by such rules, provide for such exceptions as it may think fit. The said law is applicable throughout the country and is not restricted to National Capital Territory of Delhi alone.

Direct Negotiations with Terrorist Organisations

1626. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have direct negotiations with various terrorist/ militant organisations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) At present, direct negotiations are underway with NSCN (I/M).

The Government are committed to hold talks with the insurgents to establish peace and normalcy in the North Eastern States. The Prime Minister in his Press Statement at Guwahati on 15th April, 1998 had stated "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness, whether in Assam or other States of the North East, I extend an invitation; come forward; let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution.

Terrorism in States

1627. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of terrorist activities during last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of citizens/terrorists and security personnel killed and loss of property;

(c) the present state of affairs in each affected State;

(d) the details of assistance provided by Government, State/Union Terriroty-wise;

(e) the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents;

(f) whether some persons have been displaced due to these incidents; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from States/ Union Territories and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There has been an overall improvement in militancy related situation in Jammu and Kashmir. In North Eastern States, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura continue to be affected by insurgency in various degrees. Law and Order situation in other States is, by and large, peaceful.

(d) A statement indicating the funds released to various State Govenrments, under the Scheme for modernisation of State police forces, during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 (upto 5.3.1999), is given in the Annexure (*See appendix 186, Annexure No 31.*)